

PHILLIP HARMAN
POST OFFICE BOX 25100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90025

January 8, 1976

Vernon A. Walters, Lt. Gen., USA
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear General Walters:

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping from today's Los Angeles Time concerning Richard S. Welch and the CIA that I thought you would like to read. I believe that what Mr. Caldwell expressed in his letter to the Editor are the sentiments of all Americans.

For your perusal, I am also enclosing a copy of my letter to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

With my warmest regards and [redacted] wishing you a
[redacted] very good 1976.

STAT

Ever sincerely,

Phillip Harman

Phillip Harman

ILLEGIB

STAT

ILLEGIB

1/27/79, U.S.A. 11500

Richard S. Welch

Approved For Release 2003/07/29 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001900050007-4

has honored another American hero, Richard S. Welch, an employee of the CIA, by directing his burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the midst of that gratitude came revulsion for the U.S. magazine that first published Richard Welch's name as being a CIA agent. Revulsion because that magazine announced it was publishing the names of more CIA agents.

But I believe the real sources of the Welch tragedy are the Senate and House Intelligence Committees. There have been deliberate disclosures of CIA activities, which obviously have no relationship to possible legislation.

I should think the consciences of Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.) and Rep. Otis Pike (D-N.Y.), chairmen of the Senate and House committees, will cause a great deal of lost sleep. But their "punishment" is little solace to the families of Welch and the many other involved people, here and abroad.

History will honor Welch as it will dishonor the committees of Congress that allowed the leaking of official secrets to the media. It is a tribute to most of the U.S. press that so far only the Washington-based magazine, Counterspy has published names of CIA agents.

Those men at home and abroad live with the knowledge that one false step or slip will mean death or worse. Richard Welch lived thus for many years. His betrayal by his own countrymen will have a chilling effect upon other loyal and devoted professionals in the CIA.

Approved For Release 2003/07/29 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001900050007-4

H. M. CALDWELL
Camarillo